Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council regarding non-availability of latest textile machinery and the exorbitant import duty on textile machinery; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) There have been representations from exporters, including synthetic & rayon textile exporters, for allowing imports of textile machinery at reduced rate of customs duty. A large number of sophisticated textile machineries are already allowed for import under concessional duty schemes linked with export obligation.

Rehabilitation of Handloom and Textile Workers

992. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the amounts provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan period for rehabilitation of workers of Textile mills, which were closed and the manner in which they were rehabilitated alongwith their number;

(b) what were the amounts provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan period for rehabilitation of handloom weavers displaced due to the completion of textile mills and powerlooms; and

(c) what was the manner in which the amount was spent for rehabilitation of displaced handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund is a non-plan fund. However, during the period 1985—90, a sum of Rs. 63 crores were provided on this score. Under the scheme, affected workers are given relief for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis i.e. 75 per cent of the wage in the 1st year, 50 per cent in the 2nd year and 25 per cent of the wage in the 3rd year. Till 4th November, 1991, 19,993 workers have been given relief under the Scheme.

(a) Textile Workers' Dehabilitation Fund Scheme does not include the workers of Handloom Sectors as the Fund under this Scheme is for the workers of Organised Mill Sector.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Technical Assistance from UNDP for diversification of Jute Products

993. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute division of the United Nations Development Programme has offered to provide foreign technical know-how to promote Indian jute diversified products like blended viscose fabric and also to provide overseas research facilities for Indian Jute technologists;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to avail these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs are exploring the possibilities of securing UNDP assistance for implementation of a National Programme for Jute sector during the 8th Plan period. Currently the Programme Document is under preparation and this would include many components covering various aspects of jute development. After the formalities are gone through the extent of assistance as well as the specific area or component of assistance from UNDP will be decided.

Export of Textiles to U.S.A.

994. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase export of textiles to U.S.A.;

(b) if so, what are the details of the preparations and negotiations made in this direction;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed or proposed to be signed to expand Indo-US ties in the field of textiles; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the target set for the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Following bilateral negotiations, the Governments of India and the United States of America have agreed to extend the current Indo-US Textile Agreement which expires on 31-12-1991 for a period of one year i.e. till 31-12-1992. The Agreement may be extended for a further period of one year subject to the condition that the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) gets extended beyond 31-12-1992. The Agreement also provides for termination of the Agreement from the date the Uruguay Round transition arrangement for integration of the textile sector into GATT comes into force.

(d) An overall target of US dollar 17.577 million has been proposed for Textile exports for 1996-97 i.e., the terminal year of the VIIIth Plan. However, no specific target has been set for exports to USA.

Rehabilitation package for workers on sick textile Mills

995. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of sick textile mills including spinning units and what is the strength of unemployed labour in these mills;

(b) what is the amount paid as rehabilitation package to such workers and what is the residual amount and by when the same will be paid;

(c) whether any sick units have been marked out as viable units; if so, by when they are going to resume production; and

(d) whether workers have been offered co-operative scheme package to resume production; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to R.B.I. as on 30-9-91 there were 275 sick textile mills (including 68 spinning mills). The strength of unemployed labour in the closed mills is 157522 (approx).

(b) Till 4-11-91, the amount paid as rehabilitation package to such workers is Rs. 35.96 crores and the residual amount to be paid is to the tune of Rs. 53.65 crores approx. Pursuant to the relaxation of guidelines, disbursement has started but it is difficult to indicate the exact date by which the payment will be made.

(c) Yes, Sir. Out of the sick mills mentioned against (a) above, 39 mills were found viable by Nodal Agency. It is not possible to say when these mills would resume production.

(d) No, Sir.

ऊन प्रायग, जोधपुर की विकास परियोजनायें

996. श्री मंवर लाल पंवार : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1990-91 के लिए ऊन प्रभाग, जोधपुर की वार्षिक बजट राशि कितनी है ;

(ख) क्या ऊन प्रभाग, जोधपुर की ओर से विकास परियोजनाओं से संबंधित कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचारार्थ उनके पास भेजा गया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस पर कब तक स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी जायेगी; और